

APPENDIX A

Workgroup Recommendations

WORKGROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

Services Workgroup

- Continue to support statewide suicide prevention activities.
- Continue to support intensive “family focused” case management services for pregnant, parenting, and at-risk substance-using women and their families.
- Promote prevention and early intervention activities related to early childhood development issues.
- Look at utilizing a comprehensive, uniform instrument for assessment and data collection across all agencies from time of entry into system.
- Support dissemination of Bright Futures mental health module to health care professionals.
- Increase the number of therapeutic day treatment providers.
- Continue to promote the Department’s transition policy by supporting interagency participation in transition planning and continuing to identify strategies to support interagency collaboration on transition services.
- Move toward an integrated case management system that integrates all information about children and adolescents with mental health, mental retardation, and substance abuse issues and ensures that interventions are planned and coordinated to meet the multiple needs of the child and those systems serving the child and his/her family.

Comprehensive Services Act Workgroup (CSA)

- Explore the revision of CSA procedures to allow the use of locality CSA funds as program development funds for program development specific to population need.
- Develop incentives for program development similar to those provided in the “Youth In Need of Out-of-Home Placement Study”, that directed the DMHMRSAS and the DJJ to create opportunities for public-private partnerships and the necessary incentives to establish and maintain adequate

residential beds for the treatment of juvenile offenders with mental health needs.

- Explore the provision of new funds for front-end services, especially related to early intervention and prevention services.
- Reverse funding formulas by allocating higher percentages of identified allocations to specific rural localities to use for program development. Many of the formulas used are based on a population rate, as opposed to service capacity and service need of the locality. These funds need to be flexible according to the locality's needs so programming can be developed that is consistent with the needs of the population.

Administrative and Services Structure Workgroup

- Examine the feasibility of a single state structure with a mission of serving children and families.
 - Interim steps:
 - ❖ Develop Memorandums of understanding (MOUs) to address policy development and coordination of service delivery and procedures between agencies.
 - ❖ Incorporate a structure for interagency planning, needs assessment and budget development.
 - ❖ Explore the feasibility of developing a data management and information system to reduce paperwork burden and ultimately increase access to services by children and families.
 - ❖ Pilot demonstration projects in several localities, that will provide process evaluation and outcome data on the proposed service model and integrated system components, evaluate and assess for feasibility of statewide implementation.
- Develop an interactive web-based resource system designed to improve access/provide information to consumers and families.
- Explore the provision of start up funds to improve the services delivery system.
- Explore the development of a "Center of Excellence" that incorporates program development, shared funding, etc.

- Develop policy to enable the improvement of the services delivery system through funding targeted toward building program capacity and program start-ups to meet the needs of children with mental health, mental retardation and substance abuse service needs and their families.

Costs and Funding Workgroup

- Gain endorsement for survey components and design currently being developed.
- The survey will be conducted in an interview format, and the group would like the process to be introduced under cover letter from the Secretary of HHR.
- Survey results will be compiled and analyzed to fit with the final recommendations from the remaining three workgroups.
- Allocation of new legislative funds to address service recommendations.